**Architectural​ styles**

**in Britain and Russia**

**in XVIII-XX centuries**

**Moscow**

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**Table of Contents**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **The names of architectural styles.** | **3** |
| **Architectural styles in 1700-1800.** | **4** |
| **Architectural styles in 1830 - 1900.** | **5** |
| **Architectural styles in 1900-1930.** | **7** |
| **The after-war period.** | **9** |
| **Conclusion.** | **12** |

The names of architectural styles.

First of all it is important to mention the difference how the names of architectural styles appear in Britain and in Russia. In Britain architectural styles get their names from the names of monarchs during whose reign they appeared. In Russia the names of architectural styles were borrowed from Europe or invented and sometimes referred to a particular place or the name of a monarch as well.



Many British prefer some particular "period property". But why do they favour certain architectural eras? Periods the British prefer might vary wildly. It might be Georgian, with its neo-classical stylings, or Victorian, all about cornicing, bay windows and patterned brickwork, or Edwardian houses with their light airiness or modernist era with its

stark geometry. Plenty of people in Britain have a favoured architectural era whether or not they can afford one. For some, it's a deeply emotional attachment. In Russia the situation is different. Most people live in characterless blocks of flats. Historical buildings that can be referred to some architectural styles usually contain museums or offices and are used for dwelling very rarely.

Architectural styles in 1700-1800.

Georgian style in Britain presents various styles in the architecture, interior design, and decorative arts of Britain during the reigns of the first four members of the house of Hanover, between the accession of George I in 1714 and the death of George IV in 1830. There was such diversification and oscillation



in artistic style during this period that it is perhaps more accurate to speak of “Georgian styles.” Classical styles were influential during the Georgian era too.

According to estate agents, the Georgian era is widely regarded as the UK's preferred period.

As directors of residential researches say people favour

grandeur of great Georgian cities. For this reason many places with large stocks of such buildings, like Edinburgh, Bath and Brighton, tend to attract London-style prices.

The Georgian period runs from 1660-1840. The art of town planning reached a point of high refinement, with elegant squares and terraces beautifying cities. Often there was an attempt to simulate the country, so terraces of townhouses resemble a country house, with projecting end bays and a central pediment. Key features include:

* symmetrical facades,
* geometrically proportioned rooms,
* tall windows to let in light,
* fanlights above front doors.

In 1712, Peter I of Russia moved the capital from Moscow to St Petersburg, which he planned to design in the Dutch style usually called Petrine baroque. Its major monuments include the Peter and Paul Cathedral and Menshikov Palace. During the reign of Empress Anna and Elizaveta Petrovna, Russian architecture was dominated by the luxurious baroque style of Bartolomeo Rastrelli; Rastrelli's signature buildings include the Winter Palace, the Catherine Palace and the Smolny Cathedral. Other distinctive monuments of the Elizabethan Baroque are the bell tower of the Troitse-Sergiyeva Lavra and the Red Gate. Catherine the Great dismissed Rastrelli and patronized neoclassical architects invited from Scotland and Italy. Some



representative buildings from her reign are the Alexander Palace (by Giacomo Quarenghi) and the Trinity Cathedral of the Alexander Nevsky Lavra (by Ivan Starov). During Catherine's reign, the Russian Gothic Revival style was developed by Vasily Bazhenov and Matvei Kazakov in Moscow. Alexander I of Russia favoured the Empire style, which became de facto the only style of his period, evidenced by the Kazan Cathedral, the Admiralty building, the Bolshoi Theatre, St Isaac's Cathedral, and the Narva Triumphal Gates in Saint Petersburg. The Empire style's influence was even greater in Moscow, which had to rebuild thousands of houses destroyed by the fire of 1812.

Architectural styles in 1830 - 1900.

In Britain decoration became more elaborate in Victorian times. Victorian architecture is a series of architectural revival styles in the mid-to-late 19th century. Victorian refers to the reign of Queen Victoria (1837–1901), called the Victorian era, during which period the styles known as Victorian were used in construction. However, many elements of what is typically termed "Victorian" architecture did not



become popular until later in Victoria's reign. The styles often included interpretations and eclectic revivals of historic styles mixed with the introduction of middle east and Asian influences.



It's harder to find similar properties in places like Glasgow and Manchester, whose architecture reflects the fact that they boomed during the reign of Queen Victoria. For many British urban areas, "period property" translates for most people as a Victorian dwelling. The era saw countless rows of terraced homes built to cope with massive movements of population to towns and cities, and helped shape the country's perception of what a home looks like. However, it's not long since the style was far less

favoured. Just as 20th Century architecture is now reviled by many like Prince Charles as "monstrous carbuncles", Victorian design was once widely considered ugly and unfashionable.

In Russia in the 1830s Nicholas I eased regulation in architecture, opening the trade to several incarnations of early eclecticism. Konstantin Ton's pseudo-Russian designs became the preferred choice in church construction (Cathedral of Christ the Saviour, 1832–1883), while his public buildings followed Renaissance



tradition, exemplified in the Great Kremlin Palace (1838–49) and the Kremlin Armoury (1844–1851). The subsequent reigns of Alexander

1. and Alexander III promoted a Russian Byzantine revival in church architecture, while civil construction followed the same variety of eclecticism common in all European countries. Between 1895 and 1905 architecture was briefly

dominated by Art Nouveau, most active in Moscow. While it remained a popular choice until the outbreak of World War II, in 1905-1914 it gave way to the Russian neoclassical revival.

Architectural styles in 1900-1930.

Edwardian architecture is an architectural style popular during the reign of King Edward VII of the United Kingdom (1901 to 1910). Architecture from up to the year 1914 may also be included in this style. Edwardian architecture is generally less ornate than high or late Victorian architecture, apart from a subset - used for major buildings - known as Edwardian Baroque architecture. Leaded glass and red bricks were popular for Edwardian homes.



Architectural styles changed gradually throughout these periods. Key features of the Victorian Society were:

* bay windows introduced in 1860s,
* decorative detail,
* houses more alike due to standardised materials,
* built on rectangular grids,
* often one room wide plus corridor,
* front door often set to one side.

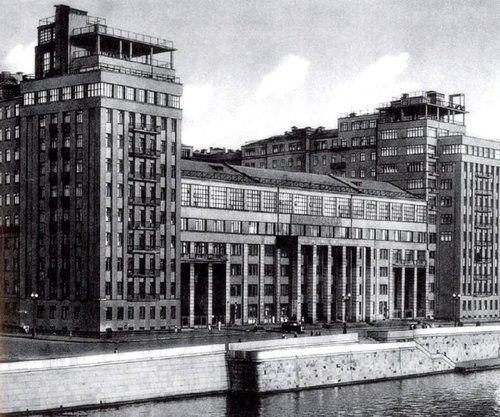
In the late Victorian and Edwardian period, houses were increasingly built with:

* lower ceilings,
* a growing preference for red brick,
* more ornamentation,
* stained glass in front doors.

Recently, however, they have undergone a reappraisal. Groups such as the Royal Institute of British Architects have hailed the influence of the Art Deco and Arts and Crafts movement on homes from this period.

In the first year of Soviet rule all architects refusing to emigrate (and the new generation) denounced any classical heritage in their work and began to propagate formalism, the most influential of all Revivalist themes. Great plans were drawn for large, technically advanced cities. Residents of apartment buildings were sealed, they were hooked by new tenants. The

so-called communal apartments became the most common type of accommodation for the residents of large cities. At 1930s people began to build houses with separate bedroom apartments, where one family was given the whole

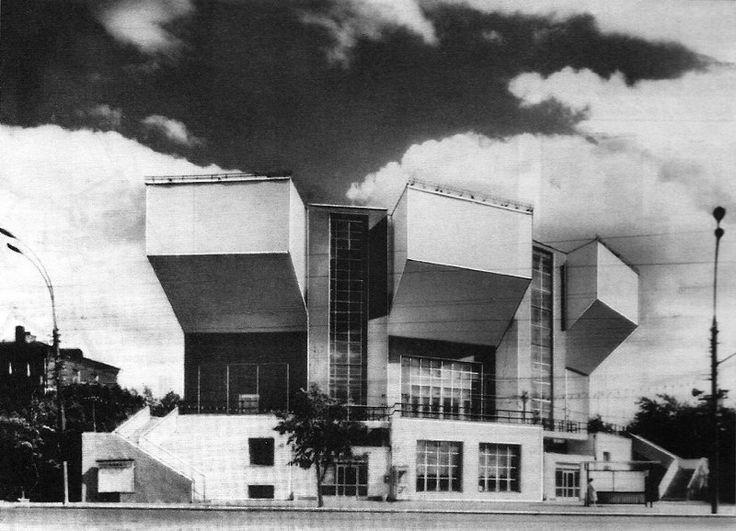


apartment. An example of such a house called House on the Embankment (Dom na naberezhnoi) in Moscow, built in 1927-1931, respectively. An important priority during the post-revolutionary period was the mass reconstruction of cities. The first apartment building of this period was completed in 1923, followed by a surge of public-housing construction in 1925-1929.

The rapid development of technological processes and materials also influenced constructivist elements in structure design. Famous examples are Volkhov Hydroelectric Station and The Dnieper Hydroelectric Station. Creative unions played a large role in the architectural life of 1920s Russia. One of these was the Association of New Architects (Asnova), formed in 1923, which promoted the idea of synthesising architecture and other creative arts to give buildings an almost sculptural feeling. These buildings were to serve as visual points for the orientation of a human in space.

Another innovation from post-revolutionary Russia was a new type of public building: the workers' club and the Palace of Culture. These became a new focus for architects, who used the visual expression of large elements combined with industrial motifs. The most famous of these was the Zuev Club (1927–29) in Moscow, whose composition relied on the dynamic contrast of simple shapes, planes, complete walls and glazed surfaces.

Symbolic expression in construction was a feature in the Rusakov Workers' Club (1927–1929) in Moscow. Visually, the building



resembles part of a gear; each of the three cantilevered concrete "teeth" is a balcony of the main auditorium, which could be used individually or combined into a large theater hall. The sharpness of its composition and the "transition" of internal space made it one of the most important examples of Soviet architecture.

The after-war period.

Brutalist architecture in Britain. Britain’s post-war architecture can be pretty dull, characterless suburban landscape that has developed over the last century. Brutalist architecture is a movement in architecture that flourished from the 1950s to the mid-1970s, descending from the modernist architectural movement of the early 20th century. The term



originates from the choice of material béton brut (raw concrete). British architectural critic Reyner Banham adapted the term into "brutalism" (originally "New Brutalism") to identify the emerging style. Brutalism became popular with governmental and institutional clients, with numerous examples in Britain as well asd all over the world. Examples are typically massive in character, fortress-like, with a predominance of exposed concrete construction, or in the case of the "brick brutalists," ruggedly combine detailed brickwork and concrete. There is often an emphasis on graphically expressing in the external elevations and in the whole-site architectural plan the main functions and people-flows of the buildings. Brutalism became popular for educational buildings (especially university buildings), but was relatively rare for corporate projects. Brutalism became favoured for many government projects, high-rise housing, and shopping centres.

After World War II, people wanted modernism. Victoriana was synonymous with slums, soot and the kind of "dark satanic mills". Decrepit late 19th Century terraces were bulldozed to make way for new, clean properties with indoor sanitation. In those homes that survived, fittings like fireplaces and tiles were chucked out - to the bitter regret of latter-day vendors for whom the words "original period features" are like manna. But fashions change. In 1958, the poet Sir John Betjeman and the architecture guru Nikolaus Pevsner set up the Victorian Society to save the glories of the age from destruction. Thanks in no small part to their efforts, the period's aesthetic charm is once again widely appreciated. It isn't the only era

whose reputation has been resuscitated. At the time of their construction, the inter-war suburban "Metroland" homes that housed commuters and their families were loathed by the cultural elite as vulgar and shabby.

In the USSR Stalinist architecture put a premium on conservative monumentalism. During the 1930s there was rapid urbanisation as a result of Stalin's policies, and there was an international competition to build the Palace of the Soviets in Moscow at that time. After 1945, the focus was on both rebuilding structures destroyed in World War II and erecting new ones: seven high-rise buildings were



built at symbolic points in the Moscow area. The construction of Moscow University (1948–1953), by Lev Rudnev and associates, is particularly notable for its use of space. Another example is the Exhibition Centre in Moscow, built for the second All-Union Agricultural Exhibition (VSKhV) in 1954. This

featured a series of pavilions, each decorated in representative style.

Following Stalin's death in 1953, social and political changes rocked the country; construction priorities and architecture were also affected. In 1955 Nikita Khrushchev, faced with the slow pace of housing construction, called for drastic measures to accelerate the process. This involved developing new mass-production technology and removing "decorative extras" from buildings. On special plants that were built in every major city had launched production of special concrete blocks ready openings for doors and windows of which were built houses. These blocks were brought from the factory ready-made and installed on the steel frame of a house. Houses built in this way were called block houses. All projects such houses have become standardized and have been summarized in several series (for example II-32 series), which were built houses. Projects for a buyout built schools, kindergartens and hospitals were also typical. This put an effective end to Stalinist architecture; however, the transition was slow. Most projects in the planning state or under construction by 1955 were directly affected; the result, at times, was entire areas becoming esthetically asymmetrical.

Nevertheless, as the buildings became more square and simple they brought with them a new style fueled by the Space Age: functionality.

In addition to simpler buildings, the 1960s are remembered for massive housing plans. A typical project was developed using concrete panels to make a simple, five-story house. These Pyatietazhki became the



dominant housing construction. Although rapidly built, their quality was poor compared with earlier

housing; their monotonous appearance contributed to the grey and dull stereotype characteristic of socialist cities.

As the 1970s began, Leonid Brezhnev

allowed architects more freedom; soon, housing of varied design was built. Blocks of flats were taller and more decorated; large mosaics on their sides became a feature. In nearly all cases, these were built not as standalone construction but as part of large housing massives which soon became a central feature of socialist cities. In contrast to the houses built in the 1950s-1960s, which had up to 5 floors, new residential buildings were higher and could have up to 9 or more floors, although the house with fewer floors continued to be built. Each complex includes an extensive area with a yard for walks, a playground with swings, a sandbox for the games and sites for parking vehicles, which are often supplemented by garages for cars, lined up separately from the residential buildings. This principle remains today.

Conclusion.

As we can see the development of architectural styles in Britain and Russia depends significantly on the historical events.

During monarchs’ reign architectural styles in both countries tended to be more decorative, elaborated and glorious. Still there is a big difference in two countries. In Britain architectural styles were applied not only to castles, palaces, public buildings and monuments, but to residential buildings as well. On the contrary in Russia architectural styles were applied mostly to palaces, churches, monuments, cathedrals, towers and etc., but seldom (although there are such examples) affected dwelling buildings which were presented mostly by izbas till the XX century and urbanization.

The architecture during the after-war period is presented by more common tendencies in two

countries. There was brutalist​ architecture in Britain with its characterless blocks of flats which resembled the ones in the USSR.

Along with that a lot more buildings of the previous epochs were destroyed in the USSR: during the war and for ideological reasons. As a result very few historical buildings are left in Russia. That’s why people in Russia very rarely (if ever) use historical buildings for residential purposes. This is absolutely not common or possible in Russia (except for very rich people maybe). On the contrary in Britain much more residential buildings were constructed during previous centuries and a lot of them remained after the war. That’s why it is common for British people to live in historical houses and be concerned about what period property they would like to live in.